

TOPIC: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION FROM WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY

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I. SUMMARY

Western State Colorado University is requesting authorization to offer Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI), pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5) and the SAI policy (CCHE Policy I, W). Please see attached proposal (Attachment A and B). Western seeks authorization to offer credit-bearing SAI for Supplemental Academic Writing (ENG100) and College Algebra Skills (MATH102).

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-113.1 gives the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) the authority to grant authorization to state supported institutions to offer SAI. The SAI policy, adopted by the CCHE in 2013, allows state institutions the opportunity to offer courses to support students with limited academic deficiencies. Once authorized by the CCHE, an institution is eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

According to CCHE's SAI policy, institutions planning to offer SAI must submit a proposal to the CCHE indicating how and for which students they intend to implement the option. Proposals will include information about the institution's SAI assessment plan, its definition of limited academic deficiency, placement scores, intervention processes, and evaluation measures. Institutions may receive preliminary three-year authorization, after which they will be re-evaluated on the success of their implementation of SAI. The Department of Higher Education (Department) has taken on the responsibility of collecting and analyzing student SAI records. The Department will report the outcomes of SAI programs on an annual basis.

The table below shows Colorado's current Remedial Education Policy placement scores. Institutions use these scores to determine if a student is ready to enter into a college-level course in English and/or mathematics. Prior to the SAI policy, a student admitted into a four-year institution that scored a few points below the cut scores was typically required to enroll in a community college for remedial courses. The CCHE's SAI policy allows many such students to stay at their home institution and complete their general education course with SAI support, thus enabling them to finish college faster with fewer obstacles.

Skill Area	ACT Subscore	SAT Subscore	Accuplacer Score
Mathematics	Math 19	Math 460	Elementary Algebra 85
Writing	English 18	Verbal 440	Sentence Skills 95
Reading	Reading 17	Verbal 430	Reading Comprehension 80

For clarity of the attached proposal, the following definitions are used in the current SAI Policy:

Limited academic deficiency refers to the reading, writing and/or mathematics skills levels of a student who has been admitted to an institution, but has failed to meet the minimum threshold placement score for college level coursework as determined by the Remedial Education Policy. The range of placement scores that define limited academic deficiency may differ according to each institution's role and mission.

Credit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means credit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses*, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Institutions will determine if SAI credits will be considered towards a degree. Authorized institutions will be eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

Noncredit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means noncredit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Noncredit-bearing SAI will not be eligible for COF stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Following are the specifics of the Western State Colorado University SAI authorization request.

I. Definition of limited academic deficiency and cut scores:

ENGLISH

Western will define "limited academic deficiency" with an ACT English score of 15-17. Western will use the student's high school GPA as the secondary assessment, looking for a 2.75 or higher.

MATHEMATICS

Western will define “limited academic deficiency” with an ACT Math score of 17-20. Western will use the student’s high school GPA as the secondary assessment, looking for a 2.75 or higher.

Advisors from the Academic Resource Center will individually contact incoming first-year students who qualify with “limited academic deficiency” and encourage them to participate in SAI. SAI is voluntary; advisors will encourage students to participate in SAI as opposed to remedial courses. Because SAI is voluntary, students choosing not to enroll in SAI courses will be required to pass an existing remedial course prior to enrolling in 100-level English or math general education courses.

Supplemental Academic Writing (SAI ENG 100) will be co-requisite with Academic Writing (ENG 102) and College Algebra Skills (SAI MATH 102) will be co-requisite with College Algebra (MATH 140). Both SAI courses will be offered for one credit. Western’s SAI liaison is Dr. Terry Schliesman, the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. Western’s goal with SAI is to see stronger outcomes among students participating in the SAI courses as compared to students in the traditional remedial courses. Additionally, in three years, they would like to see course grades for students enrolled in the gateway English and mathematics course with SAI to be comparable to students without academic deficiencies and no SAI.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Department staff recommends the CCHE formally authorize Western State Colorado University to offer credit –bearing SAI for English (ENG) 100 Supplemental Academic Writing and Mathematics (MATH) 102 College Algebra Skills.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-113